NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Garrison Man Found Guilty on Gun Charges

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on May 17, 2006, **Jerald V. Proell,** 51, of Garrison, North Dakota, was found guilty by a federal jury on one count of possession of unregistered firearm and two counts of possession of firearms and ammunition by an unlawful user of a controlled substance. The case was presided over by United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland.

On April 6, 2005, a search warrant was obtained for **Proell's** residence in Garrison for law enforcement officers to search for Game & Fish violations. **Proell** was not the suspect in those violations. Upon entering **Proell's** residence, officers observed illegal guns and drugs. **Proell** was arrested on federal charges on September 27, 2005, and his residence was searched again. A total of eight firearms, including a machine gun and two semi-automatic rifles, several baggies of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a small amount of methamphetamine were seized between the two searches.

The charge of possession of unregistered firearm carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment and a $10,000 fine. Each charge of possession of firearms and ammunition by an unlawful user of a controlled substance carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives,

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North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, South Sakakawea Narcotics Task Force, and McLean

County Sheriff's Office.

Sentencing for **Proell** has not been scheduled.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Paul Emerson prosecuted the case.

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